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NEWS

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The End of an Era



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University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

Ray I. "Stubby" Shawl, 88, professor of Agricultural Engineering emeritus died at 4:45 p.m. Thursday, June 1, 1978. Ray was born March 9, 1890 in Ohio, Illinois. He was married to Helen Kirby in 1923 and they had one daughter, Mary Grace. Helen died in 1949. He later married Agnes Kirby. She survives.

Also surviving are his daughter Mary Grace Stevens of Urbana, two step-daughters, eight grandchildren; four great grandchildren, a sister and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

Ray joined the UI staff as a part-time assistant after he received his bachelor's degree in 1915. He earned his master's degree in 1919 and remained with the University until his retirement in September 1958. In his long career of teaching power and machinery courses and short courses he became a legend. His wit and humor marked his entire career. An hour before his death he wanted his camera to take a picture of his roommate in the hospital. He enjoyed life day to day and was never sick until a few months ago his heart slowed him down.

Ray was almost as well known for his musical interests as his career in agricultural engineering. He began his avocation as a musician playing a clarinet and was a member of the UI band. He taught himself to play the bassoon, and performed as bassoonist with the band at many university events. Mr. Shawl was a member of the concert band

for 43 years and football band 38 years.

Mr. Shawl was also a member of barbershop quartet, the "Four Men of Note". In 1953, he was elected president of the local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Mr. Shawl was an avid amateur photographer also and a member of the Champaign County Camera Club.

He was a member of Acacia fraternity, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Farm Bureau Federation, Masons, and had 49 years perfect attendance at the Kiwanis Club. He also belonged to Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Mu Alpha fraternities.

He was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church where he sang in the choir for more than 40 years.

Looking back on Ray's research projects makes one realize how much progress can be achieved during one life time. In 1915, tractors were still a novelty on farms. Some models were driven with lines, some had single drive wheels, their engines were seldom larger than 30 HP, and being steel wheeled they generally lacked speed and agility. As late as 1928 tractors were used only 1 hour per acre for raising corn while man and horse hours totaled 26.7 hours per acre. Ray worked with the first row-crop tractor, the first rubber-tired tractor and the first high-compression tractor engines. He conducted annual short courses in tractor maintenance. By the time of Ray's death tractors were an essential part of corn production. Typically, they were agile, fast and rubber tired with engines over 100 HP and with a driver, still spent only about one hour per acre for growing corn. But there was no further time spent by either horses or men. Ray's early expectations for tractor power have been met.

Professor Ray Shawl will long be remembered by all who knew him. He set a good example in his daily love of life and activities. He enjoyed it all to the very end.

Memorials may be made to Agricultural Engineering. They will be used for students awards.

ALUMNI

John R. Patterson '69, has a new job with Gould, Inc., Rolling Meadows, Illinois. He is Quality Control Manager for the Milan, Ohio plant of the Elastomer Product Division. John says "This is the first time we have lived close to water (3 blocks from Lake Erie) and it is quite different from living in the middle of a corn field (central Ill.)" His address is 319 Brunswick Drive, Huron, Ohio 44839.

Roger Curry '65, '70, made a 2-3 week trip to China during the middle of May. I wonder if he can use chop sticks now.

Erv Arends '60, formerly with Mississippi Valley Steel, is now a John Deere dealer - Arends Tractor Company, John Deere, Ag and Consumer Products, Route 36 West, Harristown, Illinois 62537.

F. G. Kostrub, Ph.D. '71, was recently appointed Industrial Construction Pre-Program Planning Manager, Ford Motor Company, Tractor Operations.

David Burgener '73, Research Engineer, Chemetron Gases -- "I spent the last 2 years designing a rotary dry ice pelletizer for customer on-site pellet production. If you want some fun try lubricating bearings at -110° F."

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Annual Inspection Trip for our Junior Agricultural Engineering Students was held March 30 and 31. The trip started with an early breakfast at the home of John and Jean Siemens for the 32 students and 3 staff members. Tour stops included U. S. Industrial Chemical Co., Tuscola; the Corps of Engineers at Lake Shelbyville; Dickey-John Corp., Auburn; Sam Snell Farm near Auburn; Fiat-Allis Construction Machinery, Inc., Springfield; Nuclear Power Station, Clinton, and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Bloomington. The students and the Department express their sincere appreciation to all the companies and organizations visited. The students should particularly realize the benefits of the trip when they seek employment in a year or so.

New initiates into Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture are Larry Brizgis, Magnolia; Warren Groth, Armington; Steve Newbery, Jacksonville; Frank Gerke, Pilot Grove, Mo.; and Palaniappa Krishnan of India.

Alpha Epsilon Initiation - The University of Illinois Delta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon recently conducted their initiation. Alpha Epsilon is the national Agricultural Engineering honorary fraternity. Membership recognizes the qualities of character and professional attainment as well as academic achievement. Shown in the picture are:



1st row, (l to r): Warren Groth*, Armington (Vice President); Dave Meinhold*, Washburn; Jeff Healy, Aurora; Chuck Graham, Morton; Bruce Allen, Aledo; Ruth Schoedel, Urbana, Richard Dunlin*, Savoy

2nd row, (l to r): Marvin Pitts, Wauconda; Greg Young, Danville; Palaniappa Krishnan from India; Kim Van Yow from Malaysia; Frank Gerke, Pilot Grove, Mo.; Jay Olson, Oneida; Jeff Ruckman, Farmer City; Dale Maley, Fairbury; Dr. Marvin Paulsen (Faculty Adviser).

3rd row, (l to r): Eric Ackerman, Morton; Donald Rosenwinkle, Elmhurst; Edward Hines, Carmi; Ronald Nelson, Tampico; Kurt Wrage, New Holland; Dale Messmore, Pekin, Darrell Lewis, Murryville; Brad Keleher*, Orion Larry Brizgis*, Magnolia (President).

Missing from picture Gary Dannenberg, Oswego

*Not new initiates.

The annual spring banquet was held April 18 with the usual good attendance and enthusiasm. Many awards were presented as shown below.



Ronald W. Nelson, Tampico, receives the J. A. Weber Award from Mrs. Weber and daughter, Barbara.



John Brach, Frankfort, receives the Paul Bateman Award from Professor Bateman.



Winners of the Student Honor Awards

(l to r) Robert A. Montgomery, Washington; Jeffery W. Healey, Aurora; Kurt E. Wrage, New Holland; Gregory A. Young, Danville; Thomas E. Glenn, Urbana



Knights of St. Pat

(l to r) Jeffery W. Healey, Aurora; Christopher Myers, Centralia; Robert A. Montgomery, Washington



Winners of the E. W. Lehmann Award

(l to r) Donald Wauthier, Clifton; Chris Myers, Centralia; David Meinhold, Washburn; Jeff Healey, Aurora; Tom Glenn, Urbana. Donald Rosenwinkel, Elmhurst, not in picture.

Mrs. Lanham presented a gift to all the staff wives who were advisers with her to the student wives since the organization of the group. This has been a fine contribution to the department and it has meant much to those involved.

STAFF NEWS

Solar Exhibit Goes to Washington - The University of Illinois Agricultural Engineering Department's Solar Energy in Agriculture exhibit "Solar Crop Drying Systems in Illinois" will be part of a display in Washington, D.C. It will be displayed on the United States Department of Agriculture Administration Building patio just under the Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland's office. This will be part of an overall exhibit for the national recognition of "Sun Day" and will be displayed May 1-6. The exhibit will open with a viewing by the top administration of the USDA. It will then be open to the general public.

The University of Illinois exhibit features models depicting the solar grain drying work being carried on by the Agricultural Engineering Department on campus and in cooperation with local farmers.

Dr. Paul Walker, staff member in the Soil and Water Area was initiated into the Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta.

David W. Morrison and Gene C. Shove, Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, recently traveled to Huntsville, Alabama, to attend two energy meetings--one an "Energy Conservation," short course sponsored by the Division of Continuous Education, University of Alabama in Huntsville and the other the "Third Southeastern Conference on the Application of Solar Energy" held on April 17, 18 and 19. This conference was sponsored by the University of Alabama in Huntsville in cooperation with the Alabama Solar Energy Association and local sections of several technical societies. Professor Shove presented a paper, "Solar Farm Buildings Collect Energy for Crop Drying."

Dr. Shove participated in a seminar and conference on grain drying, March 9 and 10, at Trenton, Ontario, Canada. Sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Dr. Shove presented two separate discussions: (1) Principles of low temperature grain drying, and (2) Application of solar energy to grain drying.

Dr. Shove also participated in the first seminar on Drying of Corn on the Farm to be held in Quebec, Canada. The meeting, held at Saint-Hyacinthe, March 22, 1978, was sponsored by the Federation of Cash Crop Producers of Quebec and the Ministry of Agriculture of Quebec. Dr. Shove discussed how low temperature corn drying or combination low temperature-high temperature drying might be used to dry corn in Quebec.

Dr. Roger R. Yoerger is currently on a six month sabbatical leave studying research work in the area of terrain induced vibration transmitted to operators of farm tractors and other off-road vehicles. He will be seeking information concerning current research and plans for future work in Silsoe, England; Southampton, England; Berlin, West Germany; and various locations in the United States. He will return to the University of Illinois in August. Dr. Yoerger is Head of the Farm Machinery Division, Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Roland F. Espenschied is currently on a six month sabbatical leave from the University of Illinois. He plans to visit teacher trainers in 20 states to examine their instructional program in agricultural mechanics and safety and also see how teachers are applying this instruction. He also plans to visit 10 instructional materials centers to compare their operation to Vocational Agriculture Service at the University of Illinois. He will return to the U. of I. in July 1978. Dr. Espenschied is professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Illinois and is in charge of the Vocational Agriculture courses taught in Agricultural Engineering.

Editor this issue

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